MOORE, Tom [Dominion Trade and Labour - Ottawa] February - April 1919

(003)

February 15th, 1919

Tom Moore, Esq.,

Labour Council.

Dear Mr. Moore:

As you are probably aware there was a Meeting last January held under the auspices of the Repatriation Committee at which representatives of the Canadian Universities and Great War Veterans Association were present. At that meeting a Committee was appointed of which you are a member for the purpose of bringing together representatives of every organization and profession interested in the problem of education. I am enclosing a copy of a resolution that has been drawn up by some members of the committee and which will be submitted to the Universities of the Dominion. I would like you to consider this resolution and if you agree with it I will let Mr. Massey, Director of the Repatriation Committee, know. I am inclined to think that we will then undertake on behalf of the Repatriation Committee to summon a Conference of the Educational Institutions of the various Provinces, the Trades and Labour Council, and the Great War Veterans Association to meet in Ottawa. I shall be glad to hear from you at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,

President.

One of the most important departments in connection with the resumption of former activities by our returned soldiers is that which concerns the University and professional careers. Owing to the very heavy sacrifices that have been made through the enlistment of our men there will be wide gaps for some years in the intellectual life of the Dominion. It is altogether probable that between fifteen and twenty thousand graduates, undergraduates and prospective students of the Canadian Universities enlisted for military service; and when it is kept in mind that in any one year before the opening of the war the total number of men in attendance in all the Canadian Universities and Colleges was about ten thousand the seriousness of the sacrifice becomes evident. Many boys had all but completed their High School courses and were ready to enter the Universities at the time that they enlisted. Undergraduates had their careers broken and dislocated by one, two or three years, and even those who had just received their degrees will have suffered by reason of their not having gone at once into practice where they could carry into effect the principles that they had been learning in the final years of their professional training. The resumption of university work, therefore, has been particularly difficult, perhaps less in medicine than in any other faculty, because the military authorities returned those students who had standing beyond the second year to complete their medical courses even before the war had ended. The attendance in all the medical schools therefore has been very large,

and indeed in this year it is unprecedentedly so. But in the other faculties the close of the war made the problem acute except in the case of a few wounded students who had been returned earlier. With the sudden influx the method of dealing with the returned men had to be settled almost immediately, and the general principle laid down throughout the University was that we must endeavour to save all possible time for those who have returned, to make the present session so effective for them that they might be able to enter the higher year if possible in September 1919. If the Imperial and Canadian authorities had released all students or those who were heading for the Universities in November the problem would have been solved much more easily, but the authorities although the matter was laid before them decided that they could not make the exception for which the Universities asked.

The problem presented to the University was twofold, (1) the making of arrangements for giving instruction to the returned undergraduates in the various faculties, and (2) the provision for giving preparatory instruction to those returning men who had not completed matriculation. The larger problem of course concerned the returned undergraduates. Those who entered before the Christmas holidays did not find so much difficulty in joining the regular courses, but the stream of returning men grew in volume after the New Year. Many of these were able to undertake the regular work of the second term; some of them completing work that they had begun before they went overseas, others brushing up the work of the year in order that they may be in a better position to

take the regular work of the session which begins next September. The majority of the returned men, however, would not be able to accomplish the full work of their year by the end of the regular session, and it has therefore been decided to provide extra classes for them extending into the summer. What these are to be and how long they shall last will be determined largely by the needs of the students as shown in the next few weeks, but it may be confidently expected that a large amount of work will be conducted in the University during the coming summer.

With regard to those returned men who had not completed matriculation a new problem was presented to the University. It has been evident now for a long time that many boys who had left school without matriculating and have had a lengthened experience in the war would not be willing to return to their school in order to finish their courses, and unless they were to be lost to the professions it would be necessary for the Universities to provide preparatory instruction for them. This instruction, however, cannot be extended over a very long period, and it is probable that no student will be kept who will be unable to show in a short time that he would be likely in a position to enter one of the faculties at latest by October, 1920.

The work done in this preparatory course will be of matriculation grade and conducted by a special staff of teachers. It will not be required of every student that he shall take complete matriculation. His preparatory training will be determined by the requirements of the faculty that he wishes to enter, and will be so arranged as to fit him to take up the regular work of the

first year. These new classes began on the first Monday of February, and the enrollment is now in the neighborhood of forty.

In the Faculty of Applied Science a special session began towards the end of January. This extra work involves very heavy burdens upon the staff that has been greatly reduced, but it is being willingly undertaken and additions are being made as far as possible to relieve the burden.

It is hoped that the efforts of the University will result in retaining many of our returned men for the life work that they had planned before going overseas, will also save many months of idleness, and will induce some to enter upon a university career who otherwise might have taken up some calling in which they would have had much less interest and success.

February 7th, 1919.

March 22nd, 1915

Mr. Tom Moore,

Dominion Trades and Labour Council,

Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have written to the Honourable Mr. Calder asking him to endeavour to secure the consent of the Government to the proposals that were adopted at the Conference we held last January with the Repatriation Committee, the proceedings of which you are fully acquainted with.

I understand that objections have been taken by some members of the Government to the proposals on the ground that other classes of soldiers besides students might ask for some favourable consideration. I do not see why the two should come into conflict. A very large number of the students were poor boys who had saved just enough money to get themselves along for a year or two in college when they left for the war. Others were boys at school who possibly had saved a little money to enable them to enter upon a university career. Through their patriotism all this is now impossible unless they get some help. We know that a man is of best service to the country when he follows the line of work for which he has a choice, and I believe that it is a poor return for the patriotism of these fellows to have them forced into something else because they have not money to carry them through.

I hope that you agree with the general proposition that I make in the letter and if you do so is it too much to ask you to lend whatever influence you think you are able to afford to the support of the proposition ?

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

514

March 25th, 1915

Mr. Ian Moore,

301 Hope Chambers,

Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Many thanks for your letter. The proposals to which I referred were those that you are acquainted with as published in the Canadian Official Gazette.

With regard to my letter to you of February 19 the extract there to which I refer was not published. It was a resolution of a Committee which you (Mr. Pelletier) I submitted to you and which is to be discussed as I hope at a Conference of the educational authorities which in England will sent in Ottawa towards the end of May. As you know I am expecting that the Repatriation Committee will assume that meeting.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 2nd, 1919

Mr. Tom Moore,
Dominion Trades and Labour Council,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am sending you another petition in regard to support for returned soldiers in order to enable them to get higher education. This is in accordance with a resolution passed by the Conference of the Universities of the Dominion held last week in Ottawa. I hope that you will be able to support this petition.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.